

TRANSPORTATION POLICY WORKSHOP

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Transportation policy in the United States is a collection of individual policies relating to specific modes of transport, geographical areas, and different levels of government. There is no clear understanding of policy objectives or the conflicts between different policies. Moreover, there appear to be some observed discrepancies between transportation policy objectives and actual results.

This discussion session identified some issues and questions about transportation policy. The following outline summarizes the discussion and should provide a guide to future deliberations.

Policy Issues

1. Regulation of transportation.
2. Pricing of transportation services.
3. Role of various levels of government in transportation policy.
4. Interrelation of transportation and energy policies.

Questions

1. How is transportation policy made and by whom?
2. What is the public interest in transportation, and what level of subsidy (if any) should be provided?
3. What are the various objectives of transportation policy? How do they complement or conflict with each other?
4. What are the impacts of alternative transportation policies on interregional competition?
5. What are the income distributional effects of alternative policies—personal, regional, and by economic sector?
6. How do different policies affect intermodal competition?
7. What kinds of consumption shifts may be expected due to changing relative prices of transportation services?
8. What impact does transportation have on rural development?
9. How do the answers to all of the above differ between transporting people and transporting goods?

PART IV

Land Use Policy and Planning

